



Fact Sheet

Potassium Iodide(KI)

Subject:

Recent changes to federal policies and public concerns heightened by the September 11 terrorism attacks indicate a need to review the current state guidance on the role of potassium iodide in emergency response plans for an incident at a nuclear power plant. California has two operating nuclear power plants: Diablo Canyon in San Luis Obispo and San Onofre in San Diego County.

Potassium iodide (KI) is a compound that can be taken to block the absorption of radioactive iodine (RAI) by saturating the thyroid with stable iodine. It has been used in the past in over-the-counter cough medicines. If there were a radiation release containing radioactive iodine, citizens in the immediate vicinity of a nuclear power plant may take KI to help protect the thyroid gland.

Background:

In January 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published its final rule (Part 50.47 (b)(10) of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations) calling for state and local jurisdictions to "consider" the use of KI in their radiological emergency planning process. In December 2001, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released new KI use and dosage guidelines. Shortly after the release of the FDA guidelines, the NRC issued a letter describing how states may obtain NRC funding of initial KI purchases. NRC funds to purchase KI for interested states will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Web Links:

Additional Information Regarding KI

- ◆ Nuclear Regulatory Commission FAQs about KI:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/potassium-iodide.html>
- ◆ Food and Drug Administration Guidance "Potassium Iodide as a Thyroid Blocking Agent in Radiation Emergencies:
<http://www.fda.gov/cder/guidance/4825fnl.htm> or <http://www.fda.gov/cder/guidance/4825fnl.pdf>

The following are web sites where KI can be purchased over the web:

- ◆ **Carter-Wallace Laboratories Thyro-Block Tablets**
www.nitro-pak.com or www.majorsurplusnsurvival.com or www.ki4u.com
or by calling 1-800-804-4147 or 1-800-804-4148
- ◆ **Anbex IOSAT Tablets**
<http://www.anbex.com>
or by calling 1-646-843-2744

-More-

State, federal and private sector Web sites:

- ◆ California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
<http://www.oes.ca.gov>
- ◆ Federal Emergency Management Agency Radiological Emergency Preparedness:
<http://www.fema.gov/pte/rep/>
- ◆ Nuclear Regulatory Commission:
<http://www.nrc.gov/>
- ◆ San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station:
<http://www.sce.com/songs/index.shtml>
- ◆ Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant:
http://www.pge.com/006_news/diablocanyon/index.shtml

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